

IX. *New Chrysidids from Egypt and Algeria.* By the Rev.
F. D. MORICE, M.A., F.E.S.

[Read May 3rd, 1916.]

***Parnopes nilotica*, n. sp.**

Parva (long. circ. 5-6 mm.); capite et thorace viridibus et sparsim subauratis, postscutelli appendice brevissima thoracisque angulis postico-lateralibus concoloribus, tegulis alarum albidis; abdomine metallescenti-roseo vel carneo, segmentis—vel omnibus (♂! an semper?) vel solum tertio—apicem versus plus minusve virescentibus: segmenti 3tii parte apicali pallidiore (flavida), lateribus transversim ita impressis ut in medio quasi carinam relinquunt, quae tamen carina in disco segmenti non continuatur; margine ipso scarioso et acutissime inaequaliter multispinuloso: antennis, mandibulis (apicibus harum nigris exceptis), ore, pedibus, et ventre flavido-testaceis, genibus vero et parte tibiaram albidis.

Cavitas facialis albo-pilosa, longitudine sua latior, lateribus (i.e. oculorum orbitis interioribus) fere parallelis. Clypei apex in medio excisus. Pronoti anguli antichi in formam spinularum obliquarum excurrentes. Tegulae alarum (ut in hoc genere fieri solet) maximae, punctatae. Postscutelli apex vix mucronatus, sed tuberculo concolore parum conspicuo munitus. Caput thorax que crasse rugoso-vel reticulato-punctata; abdomen inaequaliter subtilius punctatum. Segmenti tertii partes impressae breviter albo-pubescentes: mesopleurae vero glabrae.

1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, taken by Dr. Longstaff at Khartum, 8-10. ii. 1909, and presented by him to the Hope Coll. in Oxford.

I treat this species as new on the authority of M. Robert du Buysson, who has kindly examined it for me and called my attention to several characters distinguishing it from *vareillesi*, Buyss., an Algerian form which superficially much resembles it.

In *vareillesi* the eyes are much larger, occupying more of the head, so that the face between them is narrower. They are also much wider above than beneath, while in *nilotica* they are regularly oval. Partly, no doubt, for this reason, the tempora in *nilotica* appear dilated behind the

centre of the eyes (in the lateral view). The postscutellar appendage is evidently much longer in *vareillesi*, and is also *white* (as are likewise the posterior toothlike angles of the thorax), this difference of colour from the metallic areas round it rendering it exceedingly conspicuous. In *nilotica* both the angles of the thorax and the merely tuberculate apex of the scutellum are concolorous with the parts adjacent to them (green). It is also slightly smaller than *vareillesi*; the mesopleuræ are not pubescent as in that species; and the dorsulum is more largely and uniformly punctured.

It cannot be confounded with *P. schmiedeknechti*, Mocs. (from Egypt and Palestine), that species having *inter alia* the thorax above, including the tegulæ, concolorous with the abdomen, and very abnormal characters in the mouth parts, which do not exist in *nilotica*.

I am, however, not altogether certain that it may not prove to be a form of *P. elegans*, Klug, described (on a single ♀) from Ambukohl, Nubia, and apparently not since rediscovered. The figure in *Symb. Phys.* suspiciously resembles it. But the last segment in *elegans* is described as "*laete viridi-aureo*," which could hardly be said of any of Dr. Longstaff's specimens. And it should perhaps be noted that *elegans* was taken in July, but *nilotica* early in February.

Chrysis modestior, n. sp.

Statura minima (long. 3-4½ mm.); segmenti abdominalis 3tii serie anteapicali foveolarum circ-12 rotundarum mediocriter distincta, apice ipso integro, edentato, subtruncato angulis lateralibus rotundatis; postscutello convexo; oculis haud magnis, breviter ac late ovalibus; genis longis, convergentibus; cavitate faciali transversa, superne haud distincte marginata (sc. carina frontali nulla), in ♂ argenteo-pilosa, in ♀ glabra, basi sulco brevi lineari longitudinaliter impressa, in medio subtiliter oblique striolata, lateribus dense rugoso-punctulatis.

Corpus superne rosco-violascenti-metallicum, punctis haud profundis sed latis reticulato-scabrum, propterea que parum nitens; infra cyaneum. Cyanea sunt etiam cavitatis facialis pars media, tegulæ alarum, propodei apex atque latera (area vero huius basali subvirescenti-igneæ). Genæ virides. Mesopleuræ subauratæ, sterna vero omnia cyanea. Segmenti abd. 3tii limbus apicalis cyaneus. Venter obscure cyanescentis, maculis 2 basalibus segmenti 2di violascentibus. Pedes viridi-cyanei vel cyanei, tarsi vero brunnei.

Pronoti anguli haud spiniformes, fere recti. Antennarum articulus 3tius duobus sequentibus simul sumptis fere aequalis. Alae hyalinae nervis fuscis, cellulae radialis apice clauso.

2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Hamman-bou-hadjar, Algeria (Province of Oran): 21. iv. 1910.

An exceedingly small and (to the naked eye) rather duskily coloured species. I found it settling on stones at the foot of a sort of cliff where the pretty little Masarid wasp *Quartinia major*, Kohl, was abundant, and suspect that it may be parasitical on that species.

Chrysis sefrensis, Buys. ♂.

This species was described by Vicomte R. du Buysson in the *Revue d'Entomologie*, August 1900, from a single ♀ taken by M. Abeille de Perrin at Ain-Sefra in Algeria (Province of Oran). I believe that it has not been since recorded, and that the ♂ is still unknown.

I was so fortunate as to meet with both sexes at a much more northern locality in the same province, viz. at Hamman-bou-hadjar, in April 1910. M. du Buysson has kindly compared the ♀ with his original type and satisfied himself of their identity, and it is at his request that I here record the hitherto unpublished ♂.

It is exceedingly like the ♀, so that a complete description of it would be superfluous. But the genae are slightly less developed, evidently shorter than the scape of the antennae, their exterior outlines (frontal view) not quite so parallel, though the convergence is exceedingly slight, and their inferior angles not so sharply prominent. In colour its only difference from the ♀, so far as I can see, is a slightly greater prevalence of the red (or coppery) tints over the green with which they are blended, especially in the head. Thus the vertex, almost the whole face, and the second joint of the antennae, are thoroughly cupreous in the ♂, while in the ♀ all these parts are more or less virescent. The third antennal joint appears to me to be altogether non-metallic, while in the ♀ it is green above like the second. As usual in the Genus, the ♂ 3rd abdominal segment is shorter and more truncate at the apex than in the ♀, and, perhaps for this reason, the four "teeth" appear shorter in proportion to their breadth; especially the exterior pair are evidently far more obtuse than in the ♀, and lie

wholly on the apical margin of the segment (not, as in the ♀, forming a portion of its lateral margin also!).

The ♂ was taken on April 27, the ♀ on April 24; both, probably, in a waste and stony patch of ground abounding in *Ferula*, but of this I am not absolutely certain, nor can I say whether they occurred on the plants or on the stones. (Most of my captures in that place, however, were on the latter, for the *Ferula* had mostly gone to seed, and ceased to be attractive to *Hymenoptera*.)

Chrysis scintillula, n. sp. ♂.

Parva (long. in ♂ circ. 5 mm.); lacte viridis; tegulis alarum, suturis juxta latera propodei, pedum anteriorum tibiis, abdominisque limbo apicali quadridentato aureo-rutilantibus; etiam vertice, mesonoto cum scutello, abdominisque regionibus quibusdam dorsalibus, plus minusve (secundum lucis incidentias varias) inter viride et rutilum versicoloribus; tarsis pedum omnium antennarumque albo-pruinosa flagellis brunnescentibus, scapis harum cum articulo tertio (quarto dimidio longiore) viridi-metallescentibus, articulo vero secundo (brevis) aureo-rutilo.

Oculi prominuli, latitudine sua paullo longiores. Genae longae, scapis antennarum subaequales, valde convergentes. Facies superne lata, carina tenui sed distincta (quae tamen ad oculos non attingit) ab ocellis separata; in medio sulco nitido longitudinali divisa; lateribus dense subtiliter punctatis; argenteo-pilosa.

Pronotum transversum, antice in medio impressum haud profunde; angulis lateralibus subacutis (non autem spiniformibus). Postscutellum simplex, fere planum.

Segmenti abdominalis tertii latera (desuper visa) fortiter a basi usque ad apicem fere recte convergentia; series anteapicalis foveolarum (in exemplari hoc octo) satis profunde impressa; dentes apicales quattuor, forma triangulari, magnitudine inter se non multum differentes, exteriores vero plus minusve introrsum deflexi proptereaque dentibus interioribus porrectis etiamque suberectis aliquanto minus conspicui.

Corporis dorsum punctis magnis crassisque—in vertice et pronoto quasi reticulatis, alibi magis inaequaliter sed fere ubique dense congregatis—, scabrum: exceptis limbo bene definito postico scutelli singulariter (an semper?) prorsus laevigato, et segmenti abdominalis 3ⁱⁱ apice (post foveolas) punctis magnis nullis sed tantum minutissime vix visibiliter punctulato.

(Alas, in exemplari unico casu aliquo laceratas et pertusas, describere non tento!)

1 ♂ taken by myself on *Ammi visnaga*, just outside the village of Sidi Okba, near Biskra, in Algeria (Province of Constantine): 16. vi. 1911.

The size and general appearance of this insect give it a superficial likeness to *Chrysogona assimilis*, Dhlb. (? *pumila* Klug). But the long genae at once separate it from that species; and though in my specimen the upper wings are sadly torn, and one is wanting altogether, enough remains of the other to show that its neuration is not that of a *Chrysogona* but of a *Chrysis*.